

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removable engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware; and attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.
2. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a first set of equipment mounting hardware;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said first set of equipment mounting hardware directly to said spine member;
a second set of equipment mounting hardware; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said second set of equipment mounting hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform removed.
3. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said first set of equipment mounting hardware comprises:
a cargo carrying platform.
4. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes:
bicycle mounting hardware.

5. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes:

at least one channel member mounted transversely on said spine member; and bicycle mounting hardware attached to said at least one channel member.

6. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said carrier system includes:

said first set of equipment mounting hardware includes a cargo platform; and said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes at least one channel member mounted onto said cargo platform.

7. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;

a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

a cargo platform;

an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to said spine member;

bicycle mounting hardware; and

a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said bicycle mounting hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform removed.

8. (Withdrawn) The carrier system of claim 7 wherein said bicycle mounting hardware includes:

at least one channel member transversely mounted onto said spine member.

9. (Withdrawn) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;

a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

a cargo platform;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to said spine member;
at least one channel member for carrying a bicycle; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said at least channel member transversely and directly to said spine member with the removal of said cargo platform.

Claim 10. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably removable engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware;
said equipment mounting hardware includes a platform removably mounted onto said spine member;
a flexible cover removably mountable on said platform for protecting the equipment from damage or theft; and
attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.

Claim 11. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes cover is comprised of:
~~an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said platform a durable material.~~

Claim 12. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes cover is comprised of:
an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

Claim 13. (amended) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes:
elongated members having "C" shaped channels;

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said "C" shaped channels; and

a mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware formed therein mountable onto said spine member.

14. (canceled)

15. (amended) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably removable engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware;
said equipment mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel mountable onto said spine member; and

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels; and

at least one mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware.

~~attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.~~

16. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

17. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member.

18. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and

a flexible cover mountable onto said platform.

19. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and
an enclosed box-mountable onto said platform.

20. (canceled)

21. (new) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
mounting hardware for mounting equipment to said carrier;
said mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel;

said C shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels;

at least one mounting mechanism for attaching said mounting hardware to said C shaped channels; and

said at least one mounting mechanism containing an indent for engaging with said inverted rim.

22. (new) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover includes:

a flexible cover.